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Agriculture and Progress perspective on the RISE Foundation Report Crop protection & the EU food system: Where are they going?

Earlier this year, the RISE Foundation published its report on the future of crop protection and the EU food system overall. This topic is the centrepiece of discussions not only at EU but also at international level; the challenge of the decade or the century if you will. The debate is pivotal for decision-makers, stakeholders and civil society as a whole.

The report describes the polarised positions that are taken on crop protection products and techniques and tries to explore new avenues of action to move sustainable crop protection and sustainable food production forward. One line of thinking in the report is to move away from reliance on chemistry alone towards more actively working with nature and biological solutions.

Although the report highlights a number of key points and wants to proactively contribute to the ongoing political debate, the agricultural dimension, i.e. the farming community's views and observations seem to be missing or at least underemphasised. Farmers - with an often crucial role in rural communities - implement Integrated Pest Management in practice on a daily basis and they are therefore pivotal in the entire debate.

We would invite the Foundation to explore our points of view on the future and the challenges ahead via our positions, notably on Farm-to-Fork and Biodiversity. We are open to provide expertise and share experiences on ongoing efforts for more sustainable farming and the challenges faced. We are keen to hold a constructive debate that will help everyone forward and that will strike a balance not only between decision-makers, industry and civil society, but that will also be beneficial to the farming community. Sustainable crop protection is not developed for the farming community but with them.

For more information, please contact: platform@agriprogress.info

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